

Marsh Hawks and Short-eared Owls are fellow sufferers with the ducks. These two birds are very necessary to that country for mice are unusually common and the hawks and owls are about the only means of keeping them in check. All four hawk nests which I found were built in stubble fields and were broken up by farming operations. Five owl nests were located; three of these were spoiled, but the other two were collected before something else could happen to them. Of the 35 duck, hawk, and owl nests which I examined I know of only five in which the eggs hatched. The one redeeming feature lies in the fact that probably the greater part of the second sets hatch and the young mature in good shape, for there are few farming operations at the time when they would be found and there are few natural enemies to interfere with them.—WALTER A. GOELTZ, *Ravinia, Illinois*.

Goudot's Explorations in Colombia.—In his recent work on 'The Distribution of Bird-Life in Colombia,' Dr. Chapman refers (p. 11) to a "French collector, resident in Bogotá," who began to send bird skins to Paris about 1838 or 1839. This collector was probably Goudot and that some of his specimens must have reached Europe at least ten years earlier will be evident upon turning to the account of *Chamaepetes goudoti* on p. 197. This species described by Lesson, in 1828, was named in honor of Justin Goudot, a French naturalist and botanical collector, a native of Jura, who secured the type in the Quindio region, in 1827, and who spent many years in Colombia collecting zoölogical and botanical specimens. As information regarding his work is not generally accessible, the following summary may be of interest.

According to La Sègue,¹ from whose brief account the following facts have been mainly derived, Goudot was an attache of the Paris Museum. Nearly a century ago, in 1822, in company with several other Frenchmen he was called to Bogotá by the government of Colombia (then known as New Grenada), to assist in founding various scientific establishments. For five years he remained in the service of the government collecting in different parts of the country. In 1823 he began work on the coast of Venezuela in the vicinity of Porto Cabello, then went to Santa Marta and ascended the Magdalena River to Bogotá. In the following year he worked eastward across the cordillera to the plains of Meta and then southward crossing the Ariari and the Guayabero, two branches of the upper Orinoco. He then returned to Bogotá and in 1825 directed his course northward along the cordillera to the valley and emerald mine of Muzo. In 1826 he collected in the mountains southwest of Bogotá, in the vicinity of the natural bridge of Icononzo or Pandi. In 1827 he resigned from the service of the government but continued his work of collecting natural history specimens. He crossed the valley of the Magdalena to the west in order to explore the rich vegetation of the Quindiu region and it was on this trip undoubtedly that he secured the type of

¹ La Sègue, A., Musée Botanique de M. Benjamin Delessert, pp. 471-472, Paris, 1845.

Chamæpetes goudoti. Two years later, in 1829, he visited the Pyramid of Tolima, one of the highest peaks of the northern Andes. In 1830 he crossed the central cordillera and visited the northern part of the Cauca Valley. On his return two years later he recrossed the cordillera farther north in the mountains of Hervé. In 1835 he explored the valley of the upper Magdalena south of Honda. During the next few years he was obliged to devote his attention to other work but employed his spare time in studying the natural resources of the regions where he lived. In May 1842, he started on his return to Europe. After descending the Magdalena he went to Santa Marta, visited the mountains in the interior, and while delayed at Carthagena, examined the flora between that point and Turbaco. Finally he reached Havre, France, in December, 1842.

During the four years from 1843 to 1846 Goudot published a dozen papers on the botany and zoölogy of Colombia including the first account of the nesting of the Cock of the Rock. According to Mulsant and Verreaux¹ he returned to Colombia after 1848 where he died. Although known chiefly as a botanical collector, he collected many zoölogical specimens including insects and a series of scorpions and probably sent to Europe many of the Colombian birds that were described by contemporary French ornithologists. It is possible also that under his instructions the natives learned to collect birds for the European market and thus began the shipment of Bogota skins which later developed into such an extensive traffic to supply museums and the millinery trade.—T. S. PALMER.

Unusual Dearth of Winter Birds.— Judging by my own experience at Hatley, and that of friends and correspondents in such widely scattered places as Toronto, Montreal, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, the winter season of 1917–18, will no doubt go down to posterity as a very remarkable one, not only for its great severity, but also for its great dearth of winter birds. Nothing like it has been seen in my time at Hatley and long previous to that so I am told by the oldest inhabitants, the thermometer standing for long periods at a time far below zero, even up to 20° and 30° in the day time and 45° at night. The local papers have contained notices of the great dearth of birds, and that from people not given to the study of Ornithology, but who perforce have had the matter thrust upon their attention. I myself have not seen any Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Pine or Evening Grosbeaks, the only birds in evidence being a few small flocks of Snow Buntings, and an occasional Northern Shrike, with a Goshawk on December 18. An easterly gale in the first week of December however, was responsible for driving in at least three Brünnich's Murres and one Ring-billed Gull, two of the former being taken at North Hatley on December 10, and one at Hatley on January 9, whilst the Gull was taken near Massawippi early in December, all of which birds I saw and identified in the flesh.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

¹ Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux-Mouches, II, p. 66, 1876.